



# Fact File

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U.S. Army, Europe & Seventh Army Fact File

## HERALDRY – 172<sup>ND</sup> INFANTRY BRIGADE



### Shoulder Sleeve Insignia

**Description:** On a upright blue rectangle with rounded ends 3 inches (7.62cm) by 2 inches (5.08cm) overall, and within a narrow white border and a wider red border 1/8 inch (.32cm) in width, a representation of the Great Dipper and North Star in yellow above two white-capped mountains and overall from top to bottom a blue bayonet, point up, edged white.

**Symbolism:** Combat arms colors are represented with the bayonet alluding to the Infantry and symbolizing attack. The Great Dipper and North Star allude to Alaska and the mountains refer to the terrain over which the units will maneuver to gain and hold ground.

**Background:** The shoulder sleeve insignia was authorized on 28 Aug 1963.



### Distinctive Unit Insignia

**Description:** A silver color metal and enamel device 1 1/8 inches (2.86cm) in height overall, consisting of a white triangular shape, the base of which is broken by four smaller blue triangles. Placed vertically in the center of the main triangle is a gold Totem Pole. Running parallel to the right hand side of the triangle and passing behind the Totem Pole is a blue and silver bayonet, to left of the Totem Pole is an eight pointed red star (a mullet), below the triangle is a silver motto scroll bearing the inscription "CAVEAT" in black letters.

**Symbolism:** The basic white triangle represents a snow capped mountain representing the Alaskan terrain in which the unit is trained to operate. The Totem Pole of an American Eagle sitting upon a Russian Bear, is representative of the purchase of Alaska from Russia. The bayonet symbolizes the Infantry, as does the Infantry blue at the base of the mountain. The red mullet alludes to the Great Dipper, and the North Star which represents Alaska the State in which the Brigade was organized and serves. The red color of the mullet symbolizes the Artillery. The motto "CAVEAT" (meaning "Let Him Beware") is placed on the motto scroll.

**Background:** The distinctive unit insignia was authorized on 8 Jun 1966.